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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman
following informal consultations

Development Account

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 24 of its resolution 52/12 B of 19 December 1997,

Recalling also its decision 52/477 of 6 May 1998,

Recalling further its resolutions 52/220 and 52/221 of 22 December 1997,

Having before it the report of the Secretary-General on the reduction and refocusing of non-programme costs,[1] and having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the utilization of the Development Account[2] and the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions thereon,[3]

1. Regrets that the quality of documents A/52/758 and A/52/848 did not fully respond to the requirements of resolution 52/12 B and did not provide substantive information and clear direction to enable it to take a final decision at this time, and also regrets the non-issuance of the document on the exact use of the $13 million already allocated to the Development Account;

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[1] A/52/758.

[2] A/52/848.

[3] A/52/7/Add.10 and A/52/894.

2. Emphasizes that efficiency measures should not adversely affect the full implementation of all mandated programmes and activities;

3. Emphasizes also that the efficiency measures should not lead to a process of budgetary reduction and should not result in the involuntary separation of staff;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly no later than 31 July 1998, at the third part of its resumed fifty-second session, through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the detailed report on the sustainability of the Development Account, the modalities of its implementation, the specific purposes and the associated performance criteria for the use of resources requested in its resolution 52/12 B and decision 52/447, and to include in the report the following elements:

(a) Identification of the types and areas of efficiency measures to be implemented throughout the Secretariat and estimates of the amounts and percentages of the possible savings to be achieved;

(b) An analysis of the impact of such efficiency measures on the staffing levels of the Organization and on the delivery of mandated programmes and activities;

(c) The sustainability of the Development Account beyond the year 2003;

(d) Specific proposals on the programmatic objectives and direction of the Development Account, in accordance with the priorities set out in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, taking into consideration the complementarity of the activities of the Development Account with other relevant sections of the programme budget;

5. Notes that the amount of $200 million suggested by the Secretary-General is an indicative target to fund the Development Account and that no time-frame should be specified for reaching that target;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit proposals on the use of the funds available under a new section 34 of the programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 to be submitted, as soon as possible and not later than 31 July 1998, to the relevant intergovernmental bodies;

7. Decides to return to the issues related to the Development Account for further consideration and appropriate action, based on the detailed report referred to in paragraph 4 above, at the third part of its resumed fifty-second session.